

I/WE CLAIM

1. An electric cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:
 - an oven cavity including a bottom portion having a central opening surrounded by a peripheral edge portion;
 - a glass panel positioned within the central opening;
 - a plurality of air inlet vents provided in and at least partially extending about the peripheral edge portion;
 - an electric heat source arranged below the glass panel and defining a central zone, said electric heat source being adapted to radiate heat through the glass panel into the oven cavity; and
 - a convection blower assembly arranged within the central zone, said convection blower assembly being adapted to generate a convective airflow which passes the electric heat source and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein said electric heat source produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity, with said electric heat source being visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.
2. An electric cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:
 - an oven cavity including a bottom portion having a central opening surrounded by a peripheral edge portion;
 - a glass panel positioned within the central opening;
 - a plurality of air inlet vents at least partially extending about the oven cavity;
 - an electric heat source arranged below the glass panel, said electric

heat source being adapted to radiate heat through the glass panel into the oven cavity; and

a convection blower assembly adapted to generate a convective air flow which passes the electric heat source and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein said electric heat source produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity.

3. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the glass panel is formed from a ceramic material.

4. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the glass panel is transparent such that said electric heat source is visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

5. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the central opening is approximately 12" X 12" (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm) square.

6. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the electric heat source includes a central zone arranged below a glass panel, said convection blower assembly being arranged within the central zone.

7. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the bottom portion of the oven cavity includes sloping portions, said plurality of air inlet vents being arranged along the sloping portions.

8. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 7, wherein the sloping portions include a forward and upward sloping portion and a rearward and upward sloping portion.

9. An electric cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:

- an oven cavity including a bottom portion;

- a plurality of air inlet vents provided in the bottom portion;

- an electric heat source arranged below the bottom portion and defining a central zone, said electric heat source being adapted to radiate heat through the bottom panel into the oven cavity; and

- a convection blower assembly arranged within the central zone, said convection blower assembly being adapted to generate a convective airflow which passes the electric heat source and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein said electric heat source produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity, with said electric heat source being visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

10. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 9, further comprising:

- a central opening formed in the bottom portion of the oven cavity;

and

- a glass panel positioned within the central opening.

11. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 10, wherein the glass panel is formed from a ceramic material.

12. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 10, wherein the glass panel is transparent such that said electric heat source is visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

13. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 10, wherein the central opening is approximately 12" X 12" (30.5 cm x 30.5 cm) square.

14. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 10, wherein bottom portion of the oven cavity further includes a peripheral edge portion extending about the central opening, said plurality of air inlet vents being arranged along the peripheral edge portion.

15. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 9, wherein the bottom portion of the oven cavity includes sloping portions, said plurality of air inlet vents being arranged along the sloping portions.

16. The electric cooking appliance according to claim 15, wherein the sloping portions include a forward and upward sloping portion and a rearward and upward sloping portion.

17. A method of introducing heat into an oven cavity having a bottom wall portion within which is arranged a glass panel comprising:

activating a heat source located below the glass panel to cause heat to be radiated through the glass panel and into the oven cavity;

operating a convection blower assembly positioned within a central portion of the heat source to cause a convective air stream to flow over and be heated by the heat source; and

directing the convective air stream through a plurality of air inlet vents arranged about the glass panel.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising: viewing the heat source in an activated state while looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising: introducing the convective air stream upwardly and centrally into the oven cavity.